

## Message Text

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62

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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P 042027Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 479

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 9884

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

FOR DEP SECRETARY RUSH FROM HANDLEY

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT FOLLOWING LAST WEEK'S CABINET MEETING ON NARCOTICS A PAPER ON OPIATE SHORTAGE WAS DRAFTED BY OMB AND MAY BE IN YOUR OR SEC KISSINGER'S OFFICE FOR CLEARANCE.

2. S/NM PREPARED A PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT AND SENT IT TO OMB A FEW WEEKS AGO. IN MY VIEW NOTHING I HEARD AT THE CABINET COMMITTEE MEETING OR SINCE CHANGES THE THRUST OR RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PAPER I SENT TO OMB. A COPY OF THIS IS IN YOUR OFFICE AND YOU WILL SEE THAT IT DIFFERS FROM THE ONE PREPARED BY OMB. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE DO NOT PROCEED ON A HASTY, PREMATURE AND UNILATERAL ACTION ON THE OPIUM QUESTION BUT CONTINUE TO USE THE INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY THAT HAS BEEN INSTITUTIONALIZED TO MAKE SURE THAT LEGAL WORLD OPIUM SUPPLY IS EQUITABLY SHARED. THAT IS WHY I PLACE SO MUCH STRESS ON THE FEBRUARY MEETING IN GENEVA OF THE INCB.

3. IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF LIMITED TONNAGE FROM OUR OPIUM STOCKPILE WILL GIVE US TIME TO DEVELOP POLICIES AND PROGRAMS TO INSURE ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF OPIATES FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES IN THE YEARS AHEAD. DURING THIS PERIOD WE WILL NEED TO LOOK AT OTHER BOTANICAL PRODUCTS, SYNTHETICS, AS WELL AS PRESCRIPTION POLICIES. IT REMAINS THE DECLARED POLICY OF THE PRESIDENT TO DEVELOP AN OPIUM-FREE WORLD, I.E., A WORLD WHERE OPIUM WILL NO LONGER BE NECESSARY FOR ANY MEDICAL PURPOSES. ARBITRARY UNILATERAL ACTIONS BY THE US AT THIS TIME COULD BREAK DOWN THE INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY AND COULD CAUSE INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES, E.G. TURKEY, TO

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PURSUE INDEPENDENT POLICIES WHICH COULD SET BACK OUR ILLICIT OPIUM CONTROL ACTIVITIES. IN SOME CASES, TURKEY INCLUDED, WE COULD BE ACCUSED OF BAD FAITH.

4. THEREFORE I RECOMMEND THAT S/NM'S PAPER ON SUBJECT REMAIN THE BASIS FOR THE USG POSITION AND THAT IF ALTERATIONS ARE TO BE MADE, THEY BE MINOR AND NOT SUBSTANTIVE.  
WHITE

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O, MISS ELTZ 12/4/73.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 10 MAY 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CABINET, DRUG CONTROL, DOCUMENTS, OPIUM, COMMITTEE MEETINGS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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